

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 EB-11

COME-00 RSR-01 /150 W

----- 036604

R 111355 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7513

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2618

DEPT PASS US INTERESTS CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF
SUBJECT: EC-9 MIDEAST EXPERTS MEETING

REF: BONN 6471

1. SUMMARY. AT EC-9 MIDEAST EXPERTS MEETING ON MAY 21 ITALIANS WILL PRESENT PROPOSAL FOR EUROPEAN ACTION TO REHABILITATE SUEZ AREA. ITALIANS REPORTEDLY CLAIM PRESIDENT NIXON SUPPORTS PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY
 2. ACCORDING TO FONOFF DIRECTOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS, EC-9 MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS MEETING MENTIONED IN REFTEL WILL TAKE PLACE MAYNYWQM ITALIANS ARE TO PRESENT WRITTEN REPORT ON PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP SUEZ REGION OF EGYPT. DIRECTOR TOLD EMBOFF ON MAY 8 THAT, ACCORDING TO SOURCE IN ITALIAN FONOFF, PLAN ORIGINATED BY FONMIN MEDICI, WHO CONVINCED THAT EC-9 SHOULD DO MORE IN MIDDLE EAST AND THAT, SINCE PROGRESS BLOCKED ON POLITICAL SIDE, EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO AMELIORATE SITUATION ECONOMICALLY.
 3. PLAN, WHICH SO FAR HAS BEEN PRESENTED ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS TO EC-9, CALLS FOR INVESTMENT OF \$500 MILLION PER YEAR FOR TEN YEARS TO REHABILITATE SUEZ AREA. MONEY WOULD BE PROVIDED BY CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN AND ARAB CONCERNS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING FRENCH, ITALIAN, AND SAUDI, AMONG OTHERS. EC-9 GOVERNMENTS WOULD TAKE ON MUCH ON INTEREST COSTS OF FINANCING. THREE TOWNS ON CANAL (PORT SAID, EL ISMAILIA, AND SUEZ) WOULD BE DEVELOPED. CANAL ITSELF WOULD BE REHABILITATED OR REPLACED WITH NEW CANAL. POSSIBLY BOTH CANALS WOULD BE USED IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE TRAFFIC IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS. ACCORDING TO BELGIAN EMBASSY'S SOURCE IN ITALIAN FONOFF, MEDICI REPORTEDLY GOT FAVORABLE REACTIONS TO IDEA FROM SIDQI WHEN LATTER WAS EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER, BUT IT IS NOW UNCLEAR WHAT EGYPTIAN POSITION WOULD BE. (DIRECTOR, HOWEVER, CITED TO EMBOFF PRESS REPORT QUOTING SADAT AS OPPOSING SECOND CANAL.) IN ADDITION MEDICI REVIEWED PROPOSAL FOR ISRAELIS, WHO NON- COMMITAL.
 4. BELGIAN UN MISSION HAS REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND MEDICI ALSO PRESENTED PROPOSAL TO WALDHEINAND EGYPTIAN FONMIN ZAYYAT DURING VISIT TO NEW YORK IN LATE APRIL AND THAT THEY CLAIMED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAD EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL IN CONVERSATION IN WASHINGTON.
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5. BELGIAN ME DIRECTOR WILL CHAIR MAY 21 MEETING. HE IS CONCERNED THAT EC-9 NOT TAKE POSITION WHICH WOULD MAKE US EFFORTS FOR SOLUTION IN MIDDLE EAST MORE DIFFICULT AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW US VIEW OF ITALIAN PLAN.
 6. PLEASE ADVISE.

STRAUSZ- HUPE

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO

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NMAFVVZCZ

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BONN
EUR
HELSINKI
MOSCOW
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USNMR SHAPE

VIENNA

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